

From: Stephen Krauth
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The Proposed Final Judgement fails to prevent Microsoft from creating proprietary versions of internationally standard protocols. In other words, Microsoft has in the past taken a known standard and changed it so that companies and individuals would be forced to use Microsoft products to communicate with the large installed base of other Microsoft users.

Examples:

- Windows 2000 came out with a modified version of Kerberos, a standard network authentication protocol. They refused to release the changes to Kerberos to the public. Machines using the original version of the protocol were unable to communicate with the Microsoft version.
- Same thing with DHCP, a network configuration protocol. Other non-Microsoft machines can communicate with Microsoft DHCP, but it is known to cause severe disruption on a mixed network (network of machines with Microsoft and non-Microsoft machines).

Analysts have coined the term 'embrace and extend' to describe this practice.

Microsoft has also modified standards in an attempt to destroy the standard; this practice has been deemed 'embrace, extend and extinguish'.

Example:

- Java. Java was meant to work across many computer platforms. Microsoft created a Windows only version, defeating this original purpose. Microsoft then encouraged web content creators to use Microsoft-only tools such as Active-X by failing to keep the Microsoft version of Java up-to-date with the original.

Thank you for considering this information in your decision.

Steve K. U.F.O. - "For the feeler gauge in you."